AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently amended) A method of ~~configuring~~ establishing operation of a local LAPB device capable of being operated as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device, the method comprising:

receiving ~~a frame~~ an initiator frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation directed to said local LAPB device from a remote LAPB device~~, said local LAPB device capable of being configured as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device~~;

determining, based upon information contained within said received initiator frame, whether said remote LAPB device is operating as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device;

if it is determined that said received frame information indicates that said remote LAPB device is operating as a data terminal equipment device, ~~configuring~~ initiating operation of said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment device; and

if it is determined that said received frame information indicates that said remote LAPB device is operating as a data computing equipment device, ~~configuring~~ initiating operation of said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device.

2.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising monitoring to detect ~~an initiator~~ receipt of said initiator frame ~~for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation~~ from said remote LAPB device and if no initiator frame ~~for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation~~ is detected for a given first time period, providing an initiator frame ~~for an asynchronous balanced mode~~ to said remote LAPB device.

3.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitoring to detect said initiator frame ~~for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation~~ from said remote LAPB device is performed during a given period of time.

4.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising providing said given period of time.

5.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for ~~configuring~~ establishing operation of a local LAPB device capable of being operated as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device, the apparatus comprising:

    a communication port for receiving ~~a frame~~an initiator frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation originating from a remote LAPB device and directed to said local LAPB device, ~~said local LAPB device capable of being configured as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device~~;

    a memory for storing data identifying at least one of a data computing equipment device and a data terminal equipment device; ~~and~~

    a processing unit coupled to said communication port and said memory for determining whether information contained within said received initiator frame is indicative of said remote LAPB device ~~being~~operating as one of a data computing equipment device and a data terminal equipment device using said data stored in said memory and providing a configuration signal to said local LAPB device as a function thereof; and

    said configuration signal for ~~configuring~~initiating operation of said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment device in the case where the received frame information is indicative of said remote LAPB device ~~being~~operating as a data terminal equipment device and further said configuration signal for ~~configuring~~initiating operation of said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device in the case where the received frame information is indicative of said remote LAPB device ~~being~~operating as a data computing equipment device.

6.   (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication port provides an initiator frame ~~for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation~~ to said remote LAPB device in the case where no initiator frame is received from said remote LAPB device for a given period of time.

7.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said apparatus includes said local LAPB device.

8.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said apparatus includes said local LAPB device.

9.   (Currently amended) A method of ~~configuring~~ establishing operation of a first LAPB device coupled to a second LAPB device in a network, said first LAPB device capable of being operated as a first type of LAPB device or a second type of LAPB device, the method comprising:

    receiving a first initiator frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation from the second LAPB device directed to the first LAPB device~~, said first LAPB device capable of being configured as a first type of LAPB device or a second type of LAPB device~~;

    evaluating information contained within the received first initiator frame to determine if the second device is operating as one of the first type or the second type of LAPB device;

    if it is determined that the second LAPB device is ~~of~~ operating as the first type of LAPB device, ~~configuring~~ initiating operation of the first LAPB device as the second type of LAPB device; and

    if it is determined that the second LAPB device is ~~of~~ operating as the second type of LAPB device, ~~configuring~~ initiating operation of the first LAPB device as the first type of LAPB device.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

    determining whether the first initiator frame is received from the second LAPB device prior to expiration of a first predetermined time period; and

    if the first initiator frame is not received prior to expiration of the first predetermined time period, sending a second initiator frame to the second LAPB device.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

    determining whether a third initiator frame is received from the second device in response to the second initiator frame prior to expiration of a second predetermined time period; and

-4-

if the third <u>initiator</u> frame is not received prior to expiration of the second predetermined time period, setting a failure status condition.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the first and second <u>initiator</u> frames is an initiator frame for a first mode of LAPB operation.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein:

the first type of LAPB device is a data terminal equipment device; and

the second type of LAPB device is a data computing equipment device.

14.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said initiator frame is an LAPB supervisory frame.

15.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said LAPB supervisory frame is one of:

an LAPB SABM supervisory frame in basic mode frame format;

an LAPB SABME supervisory frame in extended mode frame format; and

an LAPB SM supervisory frame in super mode frame format.

16.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said initiator frame is one of:

an LAPB DISC supervisory frame;

an LAPB DM supervisory frame; and

an LAPB FRMR frame.